

Pro Kaufmann

I am the minister of the local Congregational, united church of Christ church here in Helena. With the founding of Plymouth Colony and the commonwealth of Massachusetts in the early 1600's, we are the earliest surviving English speaking church in the country. 15 of our members singed the Declaration of independence and we continue to be a strong presence in today's national senate and house. We strongly believe that Gays Lesbians and Bisexual deserve special protections afforded to other minorities.

The necessity for human rights is grounded in scripture. Early in the tradition of scripture in Leviticus 19:16 it states 16 "Don't spread gossip and rumors. Don't just stand by when your neighbor's life is in danger. I am God." Latter in Matthew 25 it states

Then he will say to those at his left hand, Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?' Then he will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Mt 25:41-46

Protecting the rights of those who are oppressed and hurt by society is what a human rights code is all about. And guess what those who are gay or lesbian or bi-sexual face discrimination bullying, intimidation, and threats against their life all the time. *To Preserve the Human Framework of Human Rights* They deserve special protection under the Human rights code.